

solution and joined at a common junction to the microscale chromatography column, and a ~~fluid-flow-channel~~ sample injector intersecting the common junction and in fluid communication with the chromatography column;

flushing the chromatography column with a flow of the buffer solution;

stopping the flow of buffer solution;

flowing a fluid to be analyzed through the ~~flow-channel~~ sample injector; and

applying a hydraulic pressure to a that portion of the fluid residing in the common junction, thereby injecting the portion into the chromatography column.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said step of applying a hydraulic pressure is accomplished by a hydraulic electrokinetic pump.

16. (new) A method for providing a fluid sample having precisely defined volume, comprising:

providing a sample injector, wherein the sample injector is joined at a common junction to a hydraulic pressure source, and wherein the sample injector provides for fluid flow through a flow channel;

providing a receiving means for the fluid sample;

flowing a fluid through the common junction; and

applying a hydraulic pressure, by means of a hydraulic electrokinetic pump, to the common junction, thereby driving that portion of the fluid residing in the volume of the common junction into the receiving means.

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